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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
NORIIKO AMIKURA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: MOORE, K. A.
SERIAL NO: 10/588,851 :
FILED: AUGUST 9, 2006 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1792
FOR: SEMICONDUCTOR TREATING :
DEVICE :

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Election of Species Requirement ("Requirement") dated September 18, 2009, Applicants elect Species 1, listed in the Requirement as readable on Claims 1-10, and list Claims 1-10 as readable thereon.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

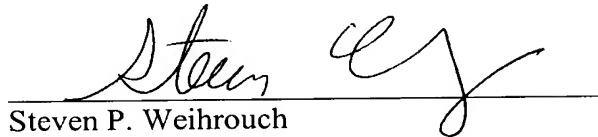
As both Species 1 and 2 relate to a semiconductor processing apparatus having a flow rate control unit that shortens a pipeline length and eliminates mechanical differences between processing chambers, the claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not

place a serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, an action on all of Claims 1-20 is earnestly solicited.

It is respectfully submitted that the examination on the merits of Claims 1-20 is in order, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven P. Weihrouch', is written over a horizontal line.

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